



ACTION COMICS® #897

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WAYNE!
I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT!

YOU
THINK YOU KNOW
SOMEBODY--!

HE'S LETTING
DOWN THE HUMAN
RACE.

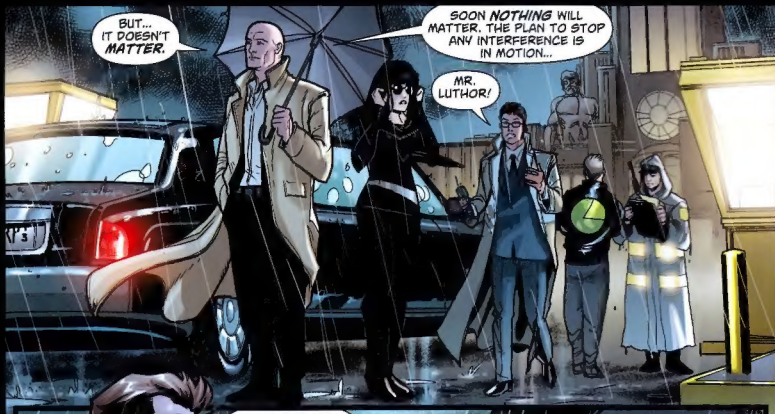
THE BLACK RING

PART EIGHT

paul cornell writer **pete woods** artist **brad anderson** colorist
rob leigh letterer **david finch & peter steigerwald** cover
will mass associate editor **matt idelson** editor
superman created by **jerry siegel & joe shuster**

BORN IN SMALLVILLE,
BUT BELIEVING HIMSELF
SUPERMAN, HE MURDERED HIS
FATHER TO ESCAPE SMALL-TOWN AMERICA
AND BUILT AN EMPIRE. ON HIS GENIUS,
THE SWORN ENEMY OF SUPERMAN, HE HAS
VOWED THAT THE WORLD WILL TURN ITS
BACK ON THE MAN OF STEEL. AND INSTEAD
EMBRACE HUMANITY'S CHAMPION...
AND FUTURE RULER.

Lex Luthor



BUT...
IT DOESN'T
MATTER.

SOON NOTHING WILL
MATTER. THE PLAN TO STOP
ANY INTERFERENCE IS
IN MOTION...

MR.
LUTHOR!



I GOT A REPLY
REGARDING SOME
INQUIRIES I'VE BEEN
MAKING--

NOT NOW.
HE'S THINKING.

DAMN IT,
MACHINE--



--HE **NEEDS**
TO KNOW THIS!
ESPECIALLY GIVEN
HOW **BIZARRE** THIS
LATEST SPHERE
LOCATION IS.

THOSE NEWS
STORIES AND
SCIENCE ARTICLES
THAT MOTIVATED
HIM TO GO ON
THIS QUEST--*

--A LOT
OF THEM SEEM
TO HAVE BEEN
PLANTED--!

OKAY, THAT'S
WORRYING.
BUT TELL HIM
AFTER.

*IN ACTION COMICS #890.
--Media-Savvy Matt.



HE'LL NEED ALL HIS
CONCENTRATION
NOW.

IT'S NOT
OFTEN--

"--YOU HAVE TO
INTERROGATE YOUR
POLAR OPPOSITE."

JOKER.

LUTHOR.

HEH,
YOU GOT A
HAIRCUT.

MAKING
JOKES.
EXCELLENT.

WE'VE
DISABLED THE
CAMERAS. WE
CAN TALK
PRIVATELY.

MY ASSOCIATES
AND I HAVE A FEW
QUESTIONS.

ABOUT A CERTAIN...
ANOMALY. I'M SURE
YOU KNOW WHAT I'M
TALKING ABOUT.

JAZZ
HANDS!

HAHAHAHA!



"ASSOCIATES!"
"PRIVATELY!"

AND PLEASE,
THOSE CAMERAS
ARE DIFFERENTLY
ABLED.



I SEE YOU'VE GOT THE
PRESS ON YOUR SIDE.

OH, SNAP!
SHE'S GOT THE
POWER!



JOKER,
PLEASE--

--SOMEWHERE
UNDER ALL THIS
"MADNESS," REAL
OR ASSUMED--

YOU KNOW
WHAT?

I THINK
IF I CAN JUST
KILL **BATMAN**,
I'LL SAVE THE
WORLD!

INTERESTING.
A DELUSION AKIN TO MY
OWN CERTAINTY THAT--



--OH.

HAHAHAHA!

OH,
THE RICH AND
POWERFUL!

TAKES THEM
A WHILE TO GET
THEY'RE BEING
LAUGHED AT!



CRACK





--THERE IS A GAME TO BE PLAYED HERE.

AND WE **MUST** ALLOW YOU YOUR DELUSION THAT THE UNIVERSE IS **RATIONAL**. THAT **BARGAINS** CAN BE MADE.

SIT.



I KNOW WHAT YOUR QUESTIONS ARE GOING TO BE.

BUT I KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO ASK THEM ANYWAY.



WE KNOW THAT SOMEHOW THERE'S AN... UNUSUAL ENERGY SOURCE IN THIS CELL. WE CALL IT A **BLACK SPHERE**.

OH, GOOD NAME. IF YOU NAME IT, YOU **CONTROL** IT. THAT'S **SCIENCE**.

ONE: A **BLACK SPHERE** WOULD NORMALLY **FILL** THIS CELL. HOW CAN IT BE IN HERE?

TWO: WHY CAN'T WE SEE IT?

AND, THREE: WHY DOES IT JUST HAPPEN TO BE IN HERE WITH YOU?

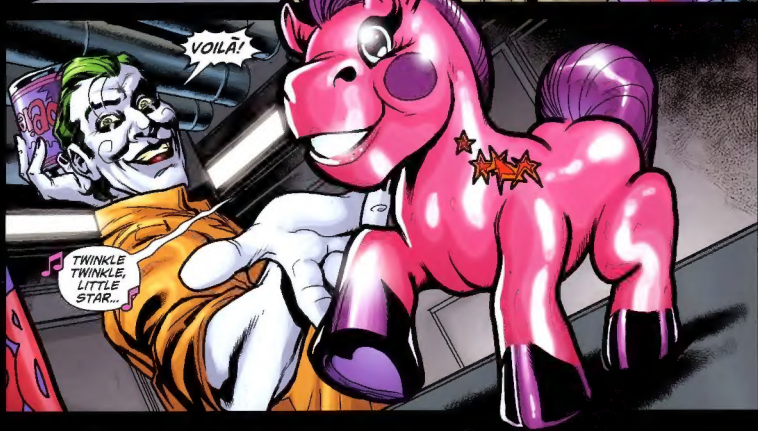
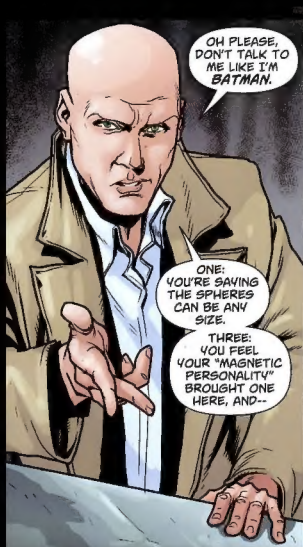
Heh heh heh --



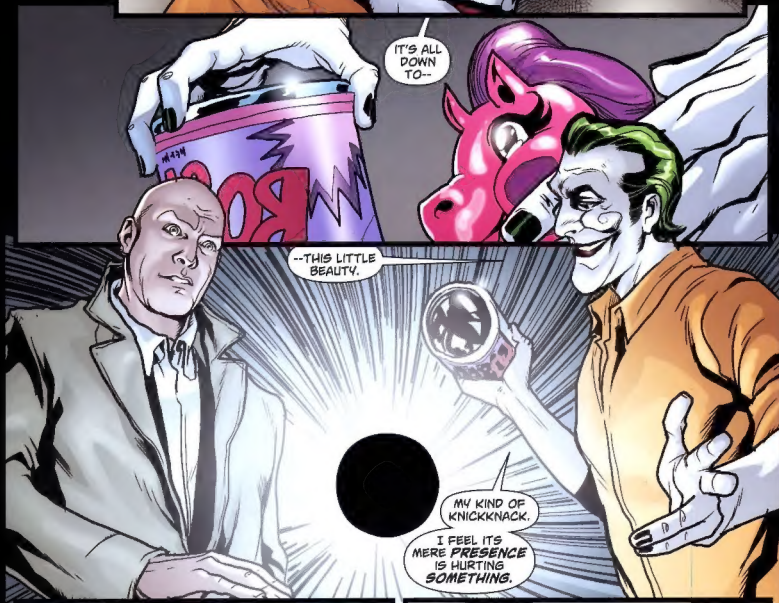
ONE: HOW LONG IS A PIECE OF STRING?

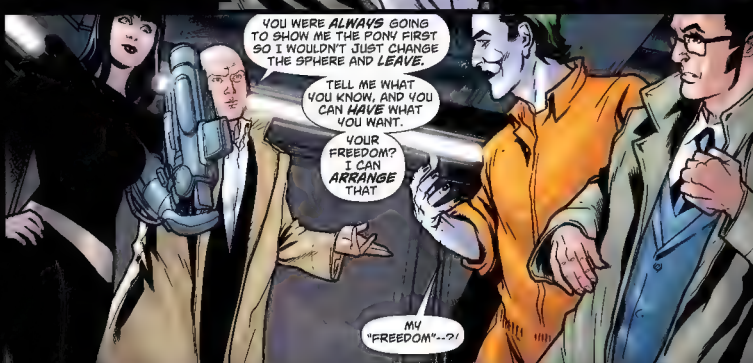
TWO: WHEN IS A DOOR NOT A DOOR?

THREE: WHY DID THE HYPNOTIST HAVE A FORK STUCK TO HIS HEAD?











--MY ONLY
"FREEDOM"--

--WOULD BE
TO FEEL LIKE
YOU.

LIKE THE
WORLD *COULD*
BE MADE
RIGHT.



THE WORLD
CAN BE MADE
RIGHT.

I'M
NEARLY
THERE.

LIKE
CHAOS NEVER
HAPPENED.

WHAT A
RENAISSANCE
MAN YOU ARE.



I KNOW THAT
IF THE UNIVERSE
IS MEANINGLESS...
THAT'S A JOKE AT
OUR EXPENSE.

IF IT'S
MEANINGFUL...
A DIFFERENT
JOKE.

ANY MEANING
WE MAKE
OURSELVES--

--THAT'S US
PRETENDING WE'RE
IN ON IT.



BUT LISTEN
TO ME, GOING ON
AND ON--!

--WHEN YOU
WANTED TO
HEAR ABOUT
THE PONY!



DON'T KNOW IF YOU'VE NOTICED, BUT I'M A BIT OF AN ARCHETYPE.

CONSCIOUSLY SO.



I DON'T SLEEP MUCH. I LET MY MINDS DRIFT. ON THE EMOTIONS UNDER EXISTENCE.

AND IT TURNS OUT ARCHETYPES... ATTRACT.

BECAUSE OF THE HUGENESS OF MY NEGATIVE EMOTIONS, MY INTERNAL MELODRAMA...

OH, THE THINGS THAT COME TO VISIT ME!



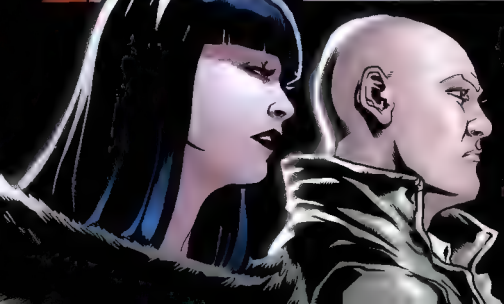
I JUST WOKE UP ONE DAY AND THERE THIS WAS. I THINK MY FEELINGS BROUGHT IT HERE. SOME PEOPLE MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY LONG EXPOSURE, EVEN AT THAT SIZE--

--I'M IMMUNE.

REMEMBER I MENTIONED A DOOR?



THIS IS ITS KEYHOLE.



AND THROUGH THAT KEYHOLE--

--ONE CAN HEAR WHISPERS.

VOICES FROM EVERYWHERE.

I THINK MY NEEDS GOVERN WHAT I HEAR OF THOSE.

THAT'S HOW I HEARD YOU TALKING TO...YOU KNOW. HER.

THE BIG TEASER. SHE IGNORES ALL THE GIFTS I SEND.

BUT I DON'T THINK THE POWER KNOWS ABOUT THE WHISPERS. THEY'RE JUST A SIDE EFFECT. OF WHATEVER IT'S DOING.

THE "POWER"?!

LEX, HE'S JUST TRYING TO CONFUSE YOU--

QUIET!

THE POWER IS WHAT'S BEHIND THE DOOR. I CAN FEEL IT.

ALL I KNOW IS, IT'S REAL. LIKE GOD.

BUT WORTHY OF RESPECT.

THAT'S THE WHOLE ENCHILADA.

DID I ENTERTAIN?

YES. YES, YOU DID.

YOU'VE CONFIRMED A NUMBER OF MY HYPOTHESES--

--WHAT
IS IT YOU
WANT?

I WANT YOU
TO **INCREASE**
THE SIZE OF THE
SPHERE.

MY NEED TO HIDE IT
MADE IT SMALL. BUT GOING
THE OTHER WAY SEEMS
TO TAKE MORE THAN
PERSONALITY.

THEN I CAN
USE IT AS A DOOR
OF MY OWN. OR
AT LEAST SNEAK
THROUGH A
CRACK.
THERE
ARE PEOPLE IN
GOTHAM THAT
NEED KILLING.

WE MIGHT FIND
OUT SOMETHING
USEFUL.

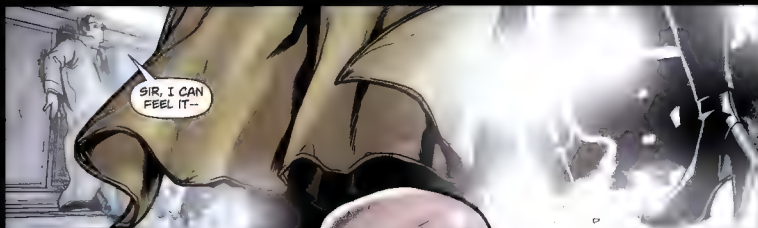
SIR, WE KNOW THE
PARAMETERS, BUT
EVEN SO--!

DO IT.

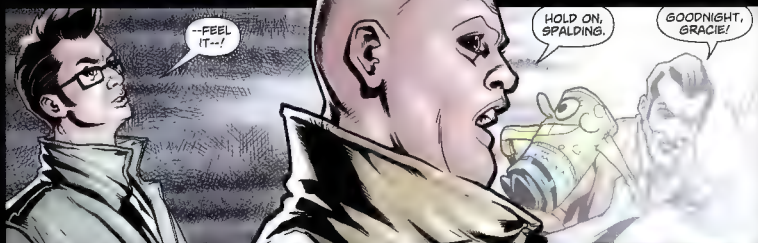
SENDING ENERGY
INTO THE SPHERE.
NOW.

HUMMMMMMM

HUMMMMMMM



SIR, I CAN
FEEL IT--



--FEEL
IT--!

HOLD ON,
SPALDING.

GOODNIGHT,
GRACIE!



OH.



OH NO!

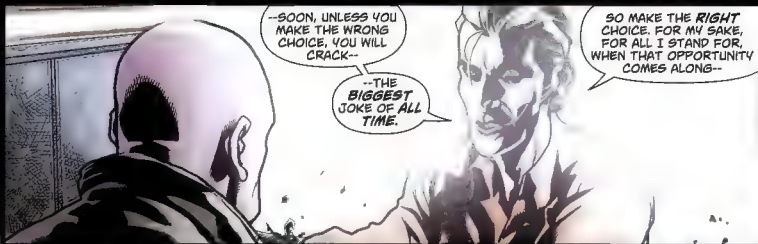
I HEARD
IT ALL! IN A
SECOND! AND
IT COULD BE
TERRIBLE!
IF THAT'S
WHAT'S GOING
TO HAPPEN, I'M
HAPPY IN
HERE!

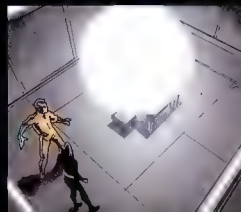
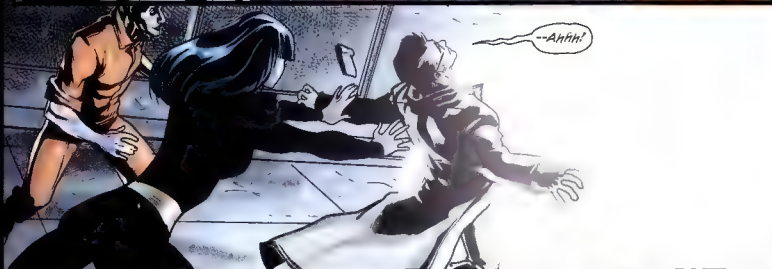
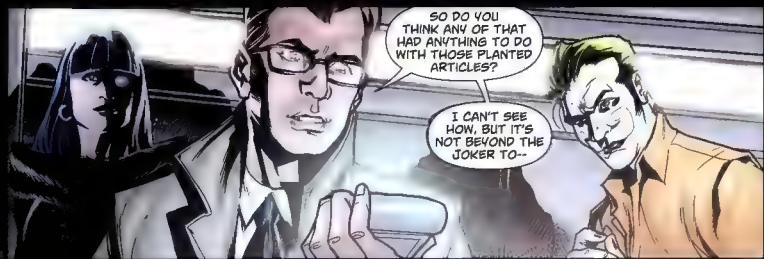


CHANGE
IT!

QUICKLY!











I HAVE A
QUESTION FOR
HUMANS.

WHERE
IS THE HAIRLESS
LEX LUTHOR?

HE IS
LOOKING FOR
SOMETHING
I NEED.

THEBES
SECURITY

NEXT LARFLEEZE
AND THE PITH
OF THE ORANGE

ACTION
COMICS

The official tie-in to the
DC Universe Online game from
Sony Online Entertainment!

DC UNIVERSE ONLINE LEGENDS



Written by
**TONY BEDARD &
MARV WOLFMAN**

Art by
**HOWARD PORTER and
ADRIANA MELO**

Covers by
**RYAN SOOK and
ED BENES**

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AND SO FALLS THE ONCE GREAT
SAVIOR, THE ALIEN WHO PROUDLY
SHOUTED TO ONE AND ALL:
I'M NOT A HUMAN BEING LIKE YOU.

OH, NO... HE CALLED HIMSELF A
SUPER MAN, AND HE WORE A BRIGHT
RED AND BLUE UNIFORM, DECLARING
THAT HE WAS BETTER THAN US.

SO HOW DO
YOU FEEL NOW,
ALIEN?

BEATEN...
BY A MERE
MAN.

UNGH...NO...
YOU'VE LOST...
EVERYTHING.

DC UNIVERSE ONLINE #1 LEGENDS SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW

Written by **Mary Wollman & Tony Bedard**

Art by **Howard Porter & Livesay**
and **Adriana Melo & Norman Lee**

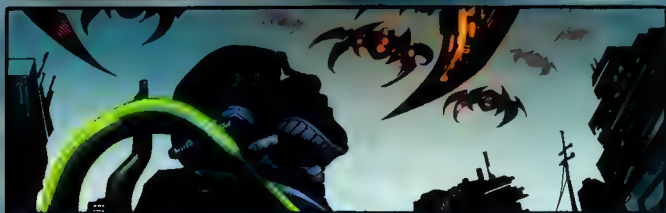
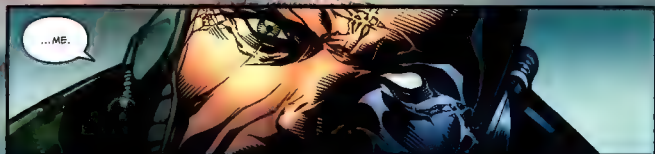
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and **Dana Kurtin**

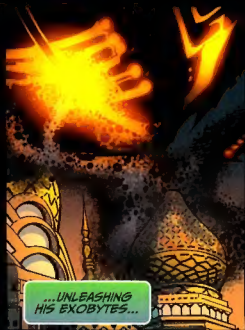




MY GOD...



BRAINIAC'S
SHIPS...



...UNLEASHING
HIS EXOBYTES...



BUT HE
PROMISED...
HE SWORE...

...ONCE THE HEROES
WERE DESTROYED,
THE WORLD WOULD
BELONG TO ME.



TO BE CONTINUED IN:

DC UNIVERSE
ONLINE
LEGENDS #1
IN STORES BIWEEKLY/
STARTING FEBRUARY, 2011



HEY DC NATION!

We are pleased to announce the debut of letters pages in all of your favorite DC books. Now you have the chance to ask questions and offer your observations directly to our editors and creators — so write in now and let's get the conversations going!

To submit a letter go to:
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Please include your full name, and address, for confirmation purposes. Letters should be no longer than 600 words and should not include attachments. Letters may be edited for length or clarity and may be published in any medium. Letters become the property of DC Comics.

Unpublished letters will not be returned or acknowledged. Published letters may identify the writer by first name, hometown, state or country.

The Reign Of Doomsday IS HERE!



Greetings, DC Nation. By now most of you have seen the beginning of the Reign of Doomsday storyline in this month's STEEL #1. This epic beat down was just the beginning of a six-part crossover, and there are tons of questions needing to be answered. Why is Doomsday back? Why is he targeting the other heroes and villains from the original Reign of the Supermen story? Where did he take Steel? We do know that his next target is appearing in next month's issue of THE

OUTSIDERS, and I'm pretty sure the image on this page spells trouble for Superboy. This story is heading somewhere big for the Superman universe and even has a top-secret final issue. Be sure to check out The Source blog (dcublog.com) for more information and keep your eyes peeled — you never know where Doomsday may strike next!

The Reign of Doomsday appears in the following issues:

Part 1: STEEL #1
Part 2: THE OUTSIDERS #37
Part 3: JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #55
Part 4: SUPERMAN/BATMAN ANNUAL #5
Part 5: SUPERBOY #6
Part 6: ????

Be seeing you —

Ion Sattler

DC NATION

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We wish these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,

SECOND CLASS CITIZEN



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